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no. 167

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CIRCULAR No. 167. Issued January 28, 1913.

United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY.

L. O. HOWARD, Entomologist and Chief of Bureau.

THE MOVEMENT OF THE COTTON BOLL WEEVIL IN 1912.

By W. D. HUNTER and W. D. PIERCE,
Of Southern Field Crop Insect Investigations.

The movement of the boll weevil during the season of 1912 is of special interest on account of the checks the insect received by the very unusual climatic conditions of the winter of 1911–12. Notwithstanding this setback the insect has made a net gain of 7,300 square miles.

The map (fig. 1) shows the extent of the infested territory in 1912 and in various preceding seasons. There are three points that are especially noteworthy in connection with this map. One of these is the failure of the insect to extend into central Oklahoma as far as it did in 1906. The second is a comparatively small loss of territory along the northern border in Arkansas and Mississippi. The third is the fact that the weevil has been able to maintain itself practically to the western limit of the area of continuous cotton culture in the central part of Texas. The western limit of cotton culture in Texas is far beyond the line showing the limit of the weevil-infested territory, but the intermediate area has very few cultivated fields, separated by long stretches of pasture lands.

The line marking the limit of the infested territory at the end of the season of 1912 runs as follows:

In Texas, beginning at Del Rio on the Rio Grande in Valverde County; thence including Roosevelt in western Kimble County, Menardville in Menard County, Abilene in Taylor County, Jacksboro in Jack County; retreating between Jacksboro and Decatur, excluding Arlington in Tarrant County, Letots, Mesquite, Lancaster, Richardson, Farmers Branch, and practically all of Dallas County, but including Farmersville in Collin County; excluding Sherman in Grayson County; leaving the State at the northeast corner of Fannin County.

In Oklahoma, from a point opposite the northeast corner of Fannin County, Tex., the line follows the river valley, includes Hugo, and leaves the State in the northeast corner of McCurtain County.

In Arkansas the line includes Mena in Polk County, the lower edge of Conway County, Conway in Faulkner County, Clarendon in Monroe County, and passes out of the State just below Helena.

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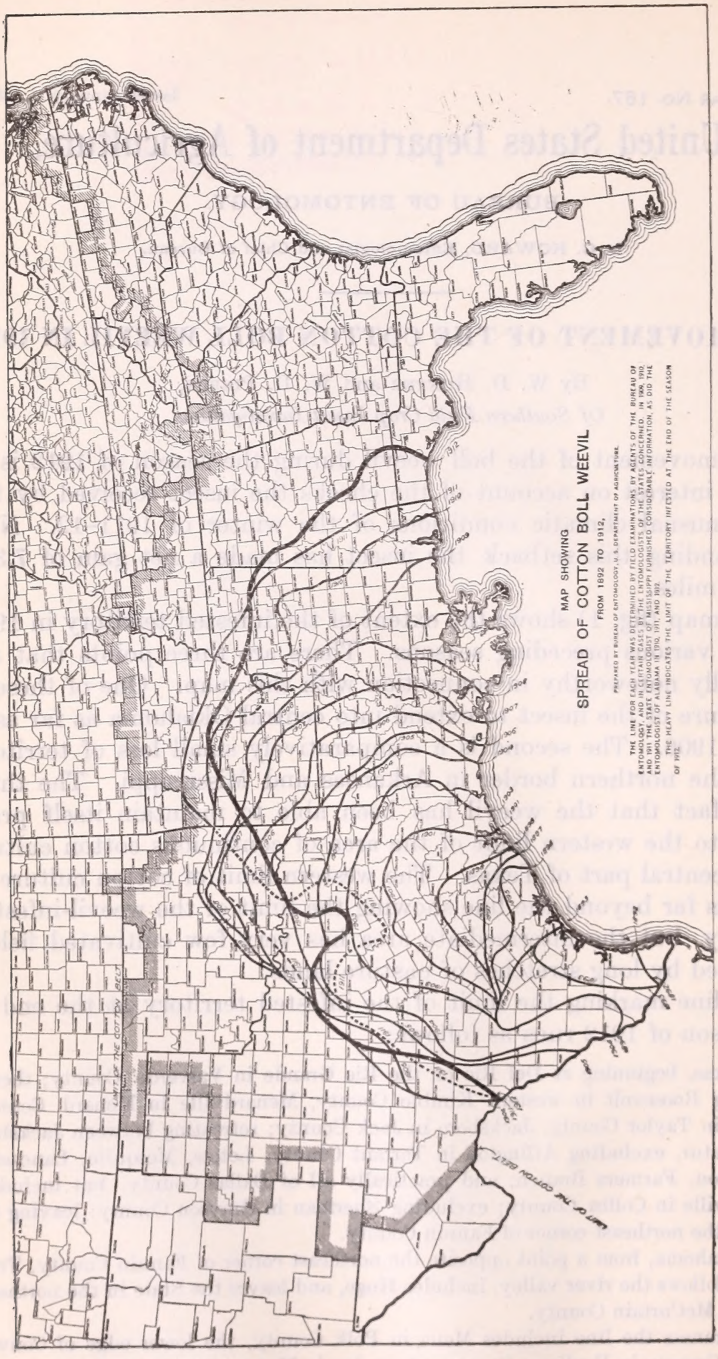

FIG. 1.—The spread of the cotton boll weevil in the United States from 1892 to 1912. (Original.)

In Mississippi the line passes a few miles below Batesville in Panola County, about 2 miles south of Springdale in Lafayette County, through Algoma in Pontotoc County, just below Plantersville in Lee County, about 3 miles northeast of Amory in Monroe County, and leaves the State at Galtman.

In Alabama, according to Dr. W. E. Hinds, the line passes near Belk in Fayette County, through Gordo in Pickens County, across the southwest corner of Tuscaloosa County and the northeast corner of Hale County, through Sprott in Perry County, 6 miles east of Selma in Dallas County, through Farmersville in Lowndes County, north of Greenville in Butler County, 4 miles east of Glenwood in Pike County, and leaves the State 3 miles west of Geneva in Geneva County.

In Florida the line passes about through Prosperity and Ponce de Leon. There is very little cotton in this section.

The following table shows the gain and loss in square miles in the various States. Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Mississippi show losses, while Texas, Alabama, and Florida show gains above the area affected in 1911.

Total area infested by the boll weevil in 1912.

State.	Area infested in 1911.	Gain in 1912.	Loss in 1912.	Area infested in 1912.
	Square miles.	*Square miles.*	*Square miles.*	*Square miles.*
Texas	139,300	11,050	650	149,700
Louisiana	40,800	.....	.....	40,800
Oklahoma	6,300	.....	4,200	2,100
Arkansas	33,900	.....	8,900	25,000
Mississippi	40,500	370	1,670	39,200
Alabama	9,300	9,100	.....	18,400
Florida	1,400	2,200	.....	3,600
Total	271,500	22,720	15,420	278,800
Net	.....	7,300	.....	.....

We are indebted to Dr. W. E. Hinds, of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, for data on the advance of the boll weevil in Alabama.

Approved:

JAMES WILSON,
Secretary of Agriculture.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 29, 1912.*

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